

**Written Testimony of Cynthia R. Jennings, Esq. Councilwoman, City of Hartford,
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Energy and Technology Committee
March 7th, 2013**

Written Testimony Concerning Governor's House Bill 6360, 6532 and 6535

Good Morning Senator Duff, Representative Reed and esteemed members of the Energy and Technology Committee, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to come before you to speak about Connecticut's energy future. I currently chair the Environment Committee for the Hartford Court of Common Council.

As a Hartford City Councilwoman, a founding member of the Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice, and a Civil Rights Attorney, I stand to strongly OPPOSE the inclusion of TRASH INCINERATION as a Class I Renewable Energy Source. The reason I oppose designating TRASH INCINERATION as a RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCE is because it is HIGHLY POLLUTING, contributes to GLOBAL WARMING, and is a known ASTHMA trigger.

Hartford has a 25% asthma rate among it's children. Hartford is home to a major trash incinerator, and a high percentage of the air pollution in the City of Hartford, comes from it's trash incinerator. The Hartford trash incinerator burns garbage for almost half of the towns in Connecticut.

I have worked with a broad base of Hartford environmentalists in opposing trash incineration within our city. Most communities would not allow a trash incinerator to be built in their town. Hartford's trash incinerator burns garbage from more than 70 towns throughout Connecticut. It is an unhealthy, polluting source of energy, and it is not a renewable energy source. Once you burn garbage, you must then find a landfill to store the toxic ash. Once garbage is burned, it contributes to greenhouse gases in the environment, global warming, and lung disease. Trash incineration is not a clean energy source, and should not be classified as a Class I Renewable Energy Source.

As a member of a town that is host to a major trash incinerator, I urge this legislative committee, to protect Connecticut's air, protect children's lungs, and say NO to including TRASH INCINERATION as a class I RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCE.

- Instead of meeting our renewable energy goals through trash incineration, Connecticut should make firm commitments to invest in true clean energy projects like wind, solar and geo thermal heating and cooling. Wind, solar and geo-thermal sources are healthier options for Connecticut residents and present new employment opportunities for Connecticut residents.
- **Lets invest in CLEAN ENERGY PROJECTS like solar, wind and geo thermal heating and cooling, and remove energy sources that contribute to air pollution, health risks and global warming. I urge this committee to say YES to clean energy projects in Connecticut, and support a cleaner, healthier, Connecticut. Thank you.**